REMARKS

The Office Action dated September 11, 2007, has been reviewed in detail and the application has been amended in the sincere effort to place the same in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and allowance in its amended form are requested based on the following remarks.

Applicants retain the right to pursue broader claims under 35 U.S.C. §120.

Applicants have provided a unique solution with respect to problems regarding MONITORING AND DATA EXCHANGE PROCEDURE FOR A PERIPHERAL DATA STORAGE UNIT. Applicants' solution is now claimed in a manner that satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, and §103.

Rejection of Claims 1-20 Under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103:

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 for the reasons set forth on pages 4-12 of the outstanding Office Action. Claims 1-20 have been canceled herein, without prejudice, thereby rendering the present rejections moot. However, Claims 21-40 have been newly presented herein, and will be discussed herein below with

respect to each of the applied references.

Claims 21-25:

The four applied references are U.S. Publication No.
2002/0023198 to Kokubun, U.S. Patent 6,292,878 to Morioka, U.S.
Patent 6,438,638 to Jones, and the publication "Complete Idiot's
Guide to Windows XP" by McFedries.

Kokubun, as best understood, shows a docking station 12 to
which a computer 10 may be mounted. The docking station 12,
among other things, has a hard disk device 16. In a data backing
up or mirroring process, data can be transferred between the
computer 10 and the docking station 12. In operation, the computer
10 contains a program that controls the data transfer. The program
on the computer 10 can be set to execute an immediate, automatic
transfer of data upon mounting of the computer 10 on the docking
station 12. Alternatively, a user of the computer 10 can input
commands into the computer 10 via the keyboard to initiate the
transfer of data.

Morioka, as best understood, shows a data recorder which
records data at high speeds. In general, Morioka shows a system

14

only for backing up large amounts of data onto a server in a network, for example.

McFedries is simply an excerpt from a "Windows XP" guide book that reviews the Windows XP user interface and how to view the contents of the computer drives on the screen.

Jones shows a flash-memory-card reader for reading and writing data from flash memory cards of different types. As shown in Fig. 9 of Jones, the so-called FlashToaster can accept various types of flash cards for transfer of data from the cards to removable mass storage 70 or directly onto a computer 20. Jones also states the following in column 4, lines 57-63:

> In a third embodiment, the CompactFlash reader is a stand-alone device that can operate **without a PC.** A removable disk media such as a R/W CD-ROM is included. Images from the flash-memory card are copied to the removable disk media by the CompactFlash reader. A simple interface is used, such as having the user presses a button to initiate image transfer. (emphasis added)

Jones further describes the above embodiment, shown in Figure 9, in column 10, lines 26-30:

> FlashToaster 80 is provided with a simple user interface, including light-emitting diode LED 78 and button 79. When the user inserts a flash-memory card into one of connectors 62, 64, 66, 68, and removable disk 76 is inserted into removable mass storage 70, the user presses button 79. This activates controller

15

chip 40, which determines which of connectors 62, 64, 66, 68 has a memory card inserted, and copies the image files to removable mass storage 70.

Jones therefore teaches that the button interface is used only to transmit data from a flash-memory card onto removable media, such as a CD, in a stand-alone device which operates without a PC. The push button does not initiate a data exchange between the computer and the FlashToaster.

In contrast to each of the above references, new Claim 21 recites "the operating program detects the generation of a voltage pulse by a pulse generator connected to the data connection and located on the external data storage unit and subsequently initiates a mutual data exchange between the external data storage unit and the stationary computer via the data connection." None of the applied references shows such a limitation. Kokubun only shows a docking station that, as best understood, does not have a pulse generator. Further, the whole data exchange procedure is started by the computer 10, not the docking station 12. Neither Morioka nor McFedries nor Jones even remotely teaches or suggests such a limitation. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claim 21 distinguishes over each of the applied references. Further, Claim 21

is not rendered obvious by the applied references either taken individually or in any reasonable combination thereof, as one of the requirements for an obviousness rejection according to MPEP 2143 is that "the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations." The applied references do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations of Claim 21.

Claims 22-24 are also believed to distinguish over and not be rendered obvious by the applied references based on their dependence from Claim 21 and the distinguishing features recited therein.

Claim 25:

Also in contrast to the applied references, Claim 25 recites "the operating program is configured to detect the generation of a voltage pulse by a pulse generator connected to the data connection and located on the external data storage unit and subsequently initiate a mutual data exchange between the external data storage unit and the stationary computer via the data connection." Claim 25 is therefore believed to distinguish over and not be rendered obvious by the applied references for similar reasons as Claim 21 as the applied

references do not teach or suggest the above limitation.

Claims 26-40:

Further in contrast to the applied references, Claim 26 recites:

"manually actuating, by a physical movement of a user, said signal

generator in said external data storage unit, independently of all

other functions and functioning of said computer and subsequent to

operatively connecting said external data storage unit to said

computer, and generating a signal." Again, Kokubun shows a

computer 10 that initiates any transfer of data. The docking station

12 of Kokubun also does not contain a signal generator as recited in

Claim 26 that is manually actuated "independently of all other

functions and functioning of said computer." Jones shows an

external device in the form of the FlashToaster as discussed above

and shown in Figure 9 of Jones. However, Jones teaches that the

FlashToaster is only activated by using a push button when the

FlashToaster is operating as a stand-alone unit without a PC, and

only to transfer data in the form of photographic images one way

from the flash-memory card onto removable media, such as a CD,

and not a computer. The push button does not initiate a data

18

exchange between the computer and the FlashToaster. Jones therefore teaches away from using the push button with a computer. Neither Morioka nor McFedries teach or suggest the above limitation. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claim 26 distinguishes over each of the applied references. Further, Claim 26 is not rendered obvious by the applied references either taken individually or in any reasonable combination thereof, as the prior art reference(s) do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations in Claim 26, as required by MPEP 2143.

Also in contrast to the applied references, Claim 27 recites "said step of manually actuating said signal generator comprises executing a single, manual stroke." Kokubun initiates data transfer by accessing a program and then selecting through menus to obtain the appropriate command to initiate the data transfer, which is far more complicated and involved than a single, manual stroke. None of the other references teach or suggest this limitation.

Further in contrast to the applied references, Claim 28 recites "said signal generator in said data storage unit comprises a push button, and said step of manually actuating said signal generator comprises manually pushing said push button in a single, manual

19

stroke." As admitted by the Examiner in the Office Action on page 9, Kokubun, Morioka, and McFedries do not disclose the external data storage unit comprising a push button. As discussed above, Jones does show a push button that is used to initiate the transfer of data. However, also as discussed above, the data transfer is one way from the flash-memory card to a removable media, such as a CD. Also, the push button is only used when the FlashToaster is operating as a stand-alone unit without a PC. The push button is not used to initiate data transfer from the flash-memory card to a PC. In addition, the push button never initiates a data exchange between two devices or media, only a one-way data transfer. Jones therefore does not show a method step involving a push button as claimed in Claim 28.

Claims 29-40 are also believed to distinguish over and not be rendered obvious by the applied references based on their dependence from Claim 26 and the distinguishing features recited therein.

Objections/Rejections of Claims 1-20:

Claims 1-20 were objected to for several informalities set forth

20

on pages 2-3 of the outstanding Office Action. In addition, Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as set forth on page 3 of the outstanding Office Action. Claims 1-20 have been canceled herein, without prejudice. It is respectfully submitted that new Claims 21-40 have been drafted in a manner to overcome the objections and comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §101.

Petition for Extension of Time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a):

Applicants hereby petition for a one-month extension of time, from December 11, 2006 until January 11, 2007, in which to file the present amendment in the above-cited case. A payment in the amount of $120.00, representing the one-month extension fee for a large entity, is submitted herewith.

Art Made of Record:

The prior art made of record and not applied has been carefully reviewed, and it is submitted that it does not, either taken singly or in any reasonable combination with the other prior art of record, defeat the patentability of the present invention or render the present invention obvious. Further, Applicants are in agreement with the

21

Examiner that the prior art made of record and not applied does not appear to be material to the patentability of the claims currently pending in this application.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and early action towards that end is respectfully requested.

Leave to Delay Treatment of Formal Objections Until Allowable Subject Matter is Indicated:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.111, it is hereby respectfully requested that any objections or requirements not fully treated and set forth in the outstanding Office action that relate to form and are not necessary to further consideration of the now pending claims, be held in abeyance until allowable subject matter is indicated.

Summary and Conclusion:

It is submitted that Applicants have provided a new and unique MONITORING AND DATA EXCHANGE PROCEDURE FOR A PERIPHERAL DATA STORAGE UNIT. It is submitted that the claims, as presented herein, are fully distinguishable from the prior art.

Therefore, it is requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued at an early date.

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Respectfully submitted,

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